

**MEMPHIS AND SHELBY COUNTY  
METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT CHARTER COMMISSION**

Minutes  
8<sup>th</sup> Meeting  
February 18, 2010  
4:00 p.m.

**Commission Members present:**

Andre Fowlkes, Vice Chairman  
Rufus Washington  
Linda Kerley  
Carmen Sandoval  
Jim Strickland  
Dr. Randolph Walker  
Rev. Ralph White  
Damon Griffin  
Mayor Richard Hodges  
LouEtta Burkins  
Chris Patterson  
J.W. Gibson  
Billy Orgel  
Richard Smith

**Commission Members absent:**

Julie Ellis, Chairperson

**Others present:**

Matt Kuhn, Legislative/Policy Advisor to County Mayor  
Christy Kinard, Assistant County Attorney  
John Ryder, Assistant County Attorney  
Kelly Rayne, Assistant CAO, City of Memphis Government  
Jack Payne, Assistant City Attorney  
Scott Siglar, Director, Memphis Chamber  
Jimmy Covington, Reporter  
Clay Bailey, Reporter  
Bob Wherry, Lakeland Town Manager  
Patrick Lawton, Germantown City Administrator  
Sharon Goldsworthy, Germantown Mayor  
Keith McDonald, Bartlett Mayor  
Stan Joyner Jr., Collierville Mayor  
Harvey Kennedy, CAO, Shelby County Sheriff's Office  
Fred (Skip) Jones, Attorney MLGW  
Commissioner John Pellicciotti, Shelby County, TN  
Brian Stephens, Rebuild Government  
Daryl Cobbins, Rebuild Government

Zack McMillan, Rebuild Government

**I. Moment of Silence**

Vice Chairman Fowlkes

**II. Roll Call**

See Above.

**III. Approval of Minutes**

The following corrections are to be made to minutes dated February 4, 2010:

- Commissioner Chris Patterson **should** be marked, Present
- Mayor AC Wharton **should not** be marked, Present

Vice Chairman Fowlkes moved to approve minutes dated February 4, 2010, with amendments. Commissioner Washington seconded the motion, motion unanimously approved

**IV. Shelby County Ethics Training**

Danny Kail, facilitated the Ethics Training. All Commission Members were given an ethics information packet, and instructed to sign the form and return it to Mr. Kail at the end of training session.

Commission Members were informed that Danny Presley (Deputy County Atty.) was the Shelby County Ethics Officer, and was given contact information if any questions or concerns were to arise. Mr. Kail also informed Commission Members that Mr. Presley will be recommending an amendment to the Ethics Policy, regarding Federal and State offenses, as outlined in Section 12.5-61 of the Shelby County Ethics Policy.

**V. Administrative Update**

MLGW comparative data from Jerry Collins

Matt Kuhn is continuing discussions in regards to this matter, along with Chairperson Ellis. Matt Kuhn, also moved that Commission adopt the standing rule of “Quorum of 1” in order to continue addressing necessary business matters during task force meetings. Commissioner Fowlkes stated that the Commission would digress, and address decisions regarding standing rules as “other business” during the meeting.

**VI. Shelby County vs. Benchmark Counties Demographic Information Presented by Scott Sigman**

Mr. Scott Sigman was allowed additional time to set up presentation, therefore Commission digressed, and proceeded with item #7 on the Agenda.

Upon completion of preparation of presentation, Mr. Sigman was allowed to address the Commission; he provided packets to all Commission members and discussed Shelby County's demographics in relation to other cities/counties, to use as a guide in assisting in the determination of the structure of metro government.

**VII. Name that Government Initiative**

Vice Chairman Fowlkes stated that he was in discussions with Launch Memphis, a non-profit organization that will use social media networking, as well as various organizations and newsletters to assist in naming metro government. There will be no cost associated with this venture, and it will be deemed as public involvement. Timeframe for campaign is 2-3 wks, starting next week.

Commissioner Burkins questioned the consensus, and ensuring suburban municipalities would be included. Vice Chairman Fowlkes responded that Launch Memphis is a non-profit organization and their networking agency covers Memphis as well as the County.

John Ryder commented that choices of naming the government would no doubt be limited to: Memphis Metro Government, Shelby County Metro Government, and /or Memphis and Shelby County Metro Government, (staying within the confines of the law, as stated in *Tenn. Code Ann.* § 7-2-108 (a) (3)), and that the public needed to be informed of the limited choices, and such should be reflected as a poll on the website.

Commissioner Strickland moved to approve the use of *Tenn. Code Ann.* § 7-2-108 as criteria for establishing name of metro government. Commissioner J. W. Gibson seconded motion, motion approved.

**VIII. Charter Commission Schedule Discussion**

**a. Report of Suburban Mayors meeting**

Commissioner Kerley, along with Chairperson Ellis, met with suburban mayors in regards to meeting with residents to discuss government unification. Commissioner Kerley stated that the following areas were of concern to the mayors:

1. Cost to constituents;
2. Fair representation for the six (6) suburban municipalities;
3. Annexation;
4. Meetings to discuss government unification with all residents of suburban municipalities.

Commissioner Kerley along with Chairperson Ellis, will get back to the Commission with additional feedback, as discussions with mayors progress.

A suggestion was made with regard to establishing a “speaker’s bureau” to address the concerns of the residents, and provide a clear interpretation of the issues at hand. It was also suggested that Mr. Sigman’s presentation be used during prospective meetings.

b. **Schedule of Meetings in March and April**

Vice Chairman Fowlkes stated that various task force Chairmans will present updated information, as it relates to their particular taskforce, during upcoming meetings to be held in March 2010. The first update will be presented by the “Public Amenities and Betterment Task Force” at March 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.

In regards to upcoming meetings in April 2010, there will be weekly meetings held, in order to expedite the recommendation process.

- March 4th and 18th are designated, as scheduled, for main Commission meetings.

**IX. Task Force-Updates**

There were no task force updates.

**X. Items of Discussion for Next Meeting**

a. **Former Mayor of Indianapolis, Stephen Goldsmith**

Vice Chairman Fowlkes stated that Mr. Goldsmith would be addressing the Commission at the next meeting.

b. **Public Amenities and Betterment Task Force Report**

There will be reports and recommendations, regarding this Task Force, at the next meeting.

## **XI. Comments from the Public**

Commissioner Orgel wanted clarification, from Mr. Sigman, that a comparison in his presentation was actually of urban services (center city) v. general services (everyone). Mr. Sigman assured him that his understanding was correct.

The question raised applied especially in reference to slide 10, where the definition of urban services district was applied to both the previous City of Jacksonville, and for the outlying communities, which were also characterized as Urban Services Districts, though what is elsewhere called a general services district encompassing other areas outside of the former City of Jacksonville. Mayor MacDonald had raised the question from the public session, as he heard me interchangeably refer to Urban Services Districts interchangeably without specifying the outlying communities as Urban Services Districts 2-5.

## **XII. Other Business**

Commissioner Gibson was opposed to a “Quorum of 1” during Commission meetings. Vice Chairman Fowlkes stated that such a quorum would only be established to proceed with the necessary business during task force meetings, but no decision would take place.

Commissioner Sandivol requested that a standing rule be established, in which at least one (1) Commission member would be present to conduct business only, but that no decision would be made until the full Commission was present, at the next meeting. Vice Chairman Fowlkes agreed with standing rule request, and moved for “standing rule” to be implemented. Commissioner Smith seconded motion, motion unanimously approved.

## **XIII. Meeting Adjourned at 6:07 p.m.**